

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIALCOUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

TOPIC Troops and Military Installations in Prague

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

1 August 1955

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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




1. Prior to March 1955, soldiers who were equipped with small arms were only observed in the area of the "Jiriho z Podebrad" Barracks on the east side of nam. Republiky in Prague. [redacted] night-lodging slips for transient soldiers and officers were issued in this installation. It was believed that a komendatura of the Prague station was located in this barracks where intensive activity was usually observed. The local population still referred to the old [redacted] which had been constructed by the Austrians, as the "Josefska" prior to March 1955, a three-story building, about 60 meters long, windows toward the street, was observed about 150 meters southeast of the installation at the western entrance to Na Porici Street. It was guarded by a sentry who wore a khaki uniform. The use of the building which quartered no troops was undetermined. The Monopol Hotel adjoined this building to the east.²
2. Prior to the spring of 1955, soldiers wearing light-blue uniforms who were called airmen were observed at the so-called "Palac Kotva" (Kotva Palace), which was a modern commercial building with two doorways. The block was bounded by Namesti Republiky Square to the east, ul. Kralovodvorska to the south, and ul. Rybna to the west. The former ul. Benediktaska was converted into a parking lot where sedans and trucks of the air force were observed. The soldiers entering Kotva Palace were unarmed.³
3. Prior to March 1955, the former Hotel de Saxe at the intersection of the south side of ul. Hybernska and the east side of ul. Senovazna was occupied to capacity by members of the SNB.
4. Prior to late 1953, 3-month training courses, each of which involved about 150 SNB members of all classes who wore khaki uniforms and dark-red cap bands, were [redacted] in the buildings of the Repy prison, which was named [redacted] trainees were quartered in the area of the [redacted] arrived in sedans. Training focussed on theoretical instruction. Record practices with rifles and pistols were occasionally held in the garden of the prison. The program of each course included some night marches during which the trainees carried submachine guns and rifles.⁴

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
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
1.  Comment. A previous report dating from September 1953 mentions a new signboard inscribed "Military Justice Department" (Vojenska justicni sprava) which has been fixed to the "Jiriho z Podebrad" Barracks in Prague.  Previous information indicates that  komendatura which was known in this installation prior to the fall of 1951,  moved presumably to building No 3  Trida.

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2.  Comment. This building is unknown.

3.  Comment. The occupation of the so-called "Palac Kotva" (Kotva Palace) is still undetermined. The present report tends to indicate that the installation houses an air-force office exclusively.

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4.  Comment. The installations mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4, this report, are reported for the first time.

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